

Liturgy at Home: Fifth Sunday of Lent

Introduction

Alongside the Mass Christians throughout time have gathered together to pray by singing hymns, psalms and canticles, listening to passages of Scripture, and offering prayers of intercession – we call this kind of prayer the 'Liturgy of the Hours,' or the 'Divine Office.' As we cannot gather for the Eucharist this Sunday lets embrace this ancient tradition and pray in our homes either as a family or by ourselves. If you are praying as a family one person leads, the others say the words in bold.

In the name of the Father, ✠
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Hymn

Either this one, another of your choosing, or a moment of silence if not feeling particularly musical!

1 Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge a-way my sin. From
2 Lord Jesus, think on me, a - mid the battle's strife. In
3 Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray. Through
4 Lord Jesus, think on me, that, when this life is past, I
earthborn passions set me free, and make me pure with-in.
all my pain and mis - er - y be thou my health and life.
dark-ness and per - plex - i - ty point thou the heaven-ly way.
may the e-ter - nal brightness see, and share thy joy at last.

Psalmody

Psalm 62(63)

Antiphon 1. You, my God, * have become my help.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.
So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.

**For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.
So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.**

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

Antiphon 1. You, my God, have become my help.

Canticle: Daniel 3:57-88, 56

Antiphon 2. Deliver us by your wonderful works; * **save us from the power of death.**

O all you works of the Lord, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

**And you, angels of the Lord, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.**

And you, the heavens of the Lord, O bless the Lord.
And you, clouds of the sky, O bless the Lord.
And you, all armies of the Lord, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

**And you, sun and moon, O bless the Lord.
And you, the stars of the heavens, O bless the Lord.
And you, showers and rain, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.**

And you, all you breezes and winds, O bless the Lord.
And you, fire and heat, O bless the Lord.
And you, cold and heat, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

**And you, showers and dew, O bless the Lord.
And you, frosts and cold, O bless the Lord.
And you, frost and snow, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.**

And you, night-time and day, O bless the Lord.
And you, darkness and light, O bless the Lord.
And you, lightning and clouds, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

Antiphon 2. Deliver us by your wonderful works; save us from the power of death.

**O let the earth bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.**

And you, mountains and hills, O bless the Lord.
And you, all plants of the earth, O bless the Lord.
And you, fountains and springs, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

**And you, rivers and seas, O bless the Lord.
And you, creatures of the sea, O bless the Lord.
And you, every bird in the sky, O bless the Lord.
And you, wild beasts and tame, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.**

And you, children of men, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

**O Israel, bless the Lord, O bless the Lord.
And you, priests of the Lord, O bless the Lord.
And you, servants of the Lord, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.**

And you, spirits and souls of the just, O bless the Lord.
And you, holy and humble of heart, O bless the Lord.
Ananias, Azarias, Mizaël, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

**Let us praise the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit:
To you be highest glory and praise for ever.
May you be blessed, O Lord, in the heavens:
To you be highest glory and praise for ever.**

Psalm 149

Antiphon 3. Now the hour has come * **for the Son of Man to be glorified.**

Sing a new song to the Lord,
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.
Let Israel rejoice in its Maker,
let Sion's sons exult in their king.
Let them praise his name with dancing
and make music with timbrel and harp.

**For the Lord takes delight in his people.
He crowns the poor with salvation.
Let the faithful rejoice in their glory,
shout for joy and take their rest.
Let the praise of God be on their lips
and a two-edged sword in their hand,**

to deal out vengeance to the nations
and punishment on all the peoples;
to bind their kings in chains
and their nobles in fetters of iron;
to carry out the sentence pre-ordained:
this honour is for all his faithful.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,**
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Antiphon 3. Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Collect of the Day

Let us pray.

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God,
may we walk eagerly in that same charity
with which, out of love for the world,
your Son handed himself over to death.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel:

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your

graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 129(130)

℟️ With the Lord there is mercy and fulness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. **℟️**

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. **℟️**

My soul is waiting for the Lord.
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.). **℟️**

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. **℟️**

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you

then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will never die.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Gospel Reading: John 11:1-45

A reading from the holy Gospel ✠ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied:

'Are there not twelve hours in the day?

A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

If you are praying as a family this would be a fitting place to have a moment of sharing on how the Scriptures have spoken to you today.

Intercessions

In real humility of heart let us pray to God who cares for everyone, saying:

℟️ Lord, have mercy on your people.

Defend the church against all danger. **℟️**

Protect Francis our Pope. **℟️**

Be the strength of **N.** our Bishop. **℟️**

Keep our parish united in prayer. **℟️**

Save your people. **℟️**

Preserve the world in peace. **℟️**

Bring light to those who do not believe. **℟️**

Guide the rulers of all nations. **℟️**

Come to the aid of the poor. **℟️**

Comfort the afflicted. **℟️**

Bring an end to the coronavirus. **℟️**

Have mercy on the dead. **℟️**

We make our own prayers.

We ask Mary to place the whole world under her maternal protection, saying:

Hail Mary...

Let us pray together in the words Jesus taught us, saying:

Our Father...

Spiritual Communion

All sit in silence for a few moments, then we pray together asking Jesus to make his home in our heart:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Thanksgiving and Conclusion

Gospel Canticle: Luke 1:68-79 (Benedictus)

Benedictus Antiphon. I am the resurrection and the life. * **If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.**

Blessed be the Lord, **✠** the God of Israel!
He has visited his people and redeemed them.

**He has raised up for us a mighty saviour
in the house of David his servant,
as he promised by the lips of holy men,
those who were his prophets from of old.**

A saviour who would free us from our foes,
from the hands of all who hate us.
So his love for our fathers is fulfilled
and his holy covenant remembered.

**He swore to Abraham our father to grant us,
that free from fear,
and saved from the hands of our foes,
we might serve him in holiness and justice
all the days of our life in his presence.**

As for you, little child,
you shall be called a prophet of God,
the Most High.
You shall go ahead of the Lord
to prepare his ways before him,

**To make known to his people their salvation
through forgiveness of all their sins,
the loving-kindness of the heart of our God
who visits us like the dawn from on high.**

He will give light to those in darkness,
those who dwell in the shadow of death,
and guide us into the way of peace.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

Benedictus Antiphon. I am the resurrection and the life. **If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.**

The Lord bless us, **✠** and keep us from all evil,
and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**